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CONTACT

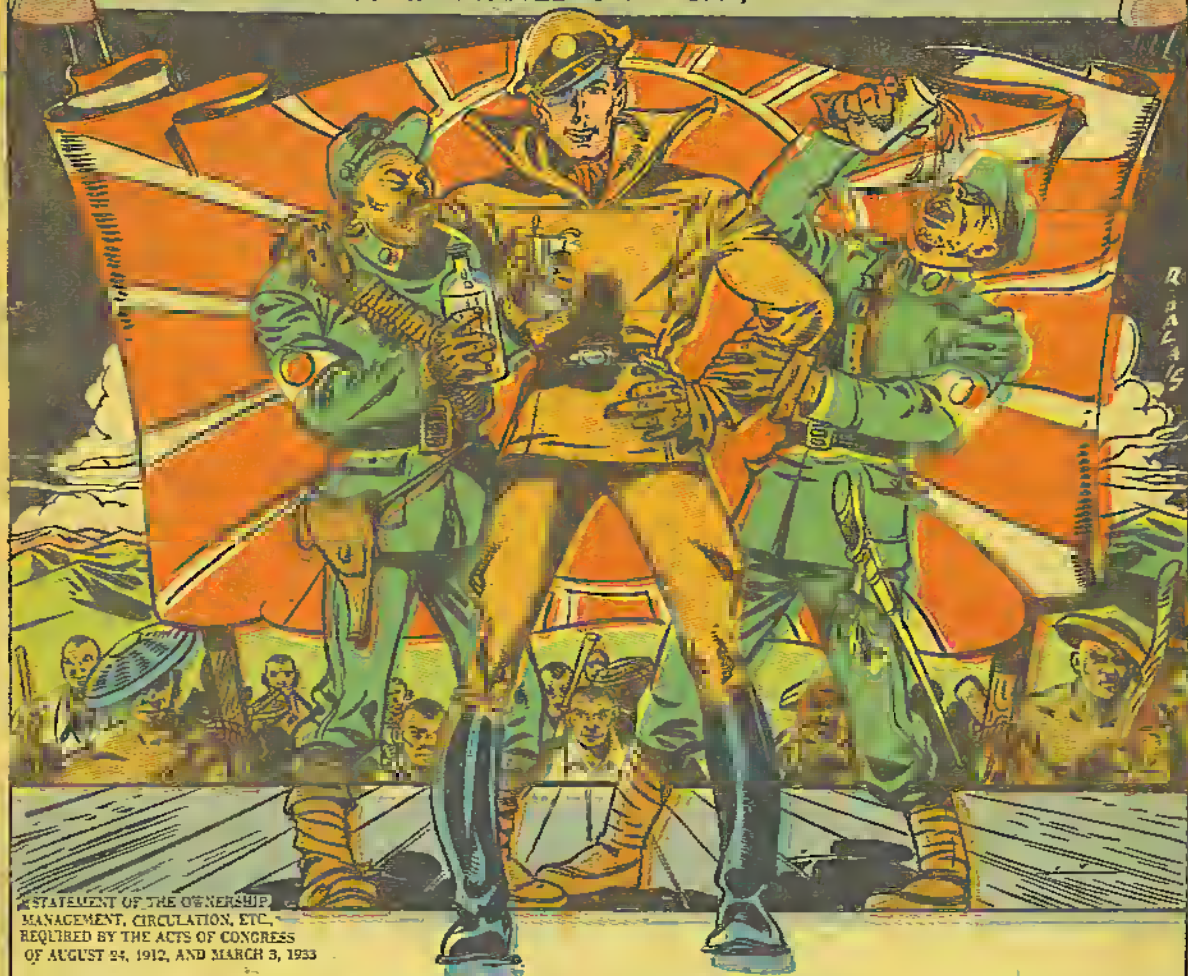
COMICS

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GOLDEN EAGLE

GOLDEN EAGLE FLEES TO THE JAP-HELD PHILIPPINES! AND THE WHOLE WORLD WONDERS WHAT MOTIVE PROMPTED THE SUDDEN TREACHERY OF THE MAN WHO HAD BEEN FREEDOM'S FOREMOST CHAMPION! WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED? THIS IS THE AMAZING STORY OF THE DAY—THE GOLDEN EAGLE TURNED "TRAITOR"!



STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP,
MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC.,
REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS
OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933

of Contact Center, published bi-monthly at St. Louis, Missouri, for period ending October 1, 1944. State of New York, County of New York, etc. Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared E. H. Holmes, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of the Contact Center and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, to wit: 1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, The Aviation Press, Inc., 113 West 42nd St., New York City; Editor, F. J. Bure, 68 East 78th St., New York City; Managing Editor, E. H. Holmes, 113 West 42nd St., New York City; Business Manager, E. H. Holmes, 113 West 42nd St., New York City. 2. That the owner is: The Aviation Press, Inc., 113 West 42nd St., New York City 18, New York. C. C. Sheppard, River Road, Teaneck, New Jersey; E. F. Kohl, 313 East 86th St., New York City; F. L. Holmes, 2126 Hudson St., Fl. Lee, New Jersey; J. C. Shanklin, Rencovette, West Virginia; W. K. Hook, 647 Anderson Ave., Cliffside Park, New Jersey. 3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are none. 4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, bond stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has an interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him. E. H. Holmes, Business Manager. Sworn to and subscribed before me this 14th day of December, 1944. Isaac Rosenbaum, Notary Public, Kings County, Kings Co. Clk's. No. 609, Reg. No. 344-R-5, N. Y. Co. Clk's. No. 703, Reg. No. 478-R-5, Ex. Co. Clk's. No. 39, Reg. No. 108-R-5, Que. Co. Clk's. Na. 2013, Reg. No. 191-R-5, Commission Expires March 30, 1945. (5845)

GOLDEN EAGLE WILL BE HERE TOMORROW! HE IS BRINGING WITH HIM A MESSAGE TELLING US WHEN TO STRIKE! OUR EFFORTS WILL BE TIMED WITH THE BIG AMERICAN DRIVE!



IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO HIM, ALL OUR YEARS OF PLANNING WILL HAVE BEEN IN VAIN!

GOLDEN EAGLE HAS NEVER FAILED TO CARRY OUT AN ASSIGNMENT! REMEMBER, TOMORROW'S THE DAY!



MEANWHILE AT AN AMERICAN AIRPORT IN THE SO. PACIFIC!

THE MESSAGE TO THE FILIPINO UNDERGROUND IS IN CODE! ONLY YOU AND THEY KNOW THE LETTER 'V' INSERTED IN THE PROPER PLACES DECIPHERS IT!

THAT'S ONE LETTER I'LL NEVER FORGET!



WERE THIS MESSAGE TO FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS, IT WOULD MEAN FAILURE AND DEATH FOR THOUSANDS OF OUR UNDERGROUND ALLIES!

IT'LL BE DELIVERED! I'LL SEE TO THAT!



THE GOLDEN EAGLE STREAKS INTO THE NIGHT --- ON THE MOST IMPORTANT MISSION OF HIS LONG CAREER!



MORNING FINDS THE PLANE DRONING STEADILY ON IT'S WAY!

I OUGHT TO BE THERE ANY MINUTE NOW!



JUST THEN!

THE SECRET LANDING FIELD IS JUST OVER THESE MOUNTAINS! ... SAY! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THE ENGINE? I'M LOSING ALTITUDE FAST!



IF I CAN ONLY MANEUVER THIS BABY BETWEEN THESE PEAKS, I CAN PANCAKE TO A LANDING!



BUT A WING TIP CLIPS THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE!



7/10 AND SECONDS LATER!



SOME HOURS LATER ON THE VALLEY FLOOR, A PRONE FIGURE STIRS!



OOOHH! WHERE AM I?... I FEEL OIZZY!

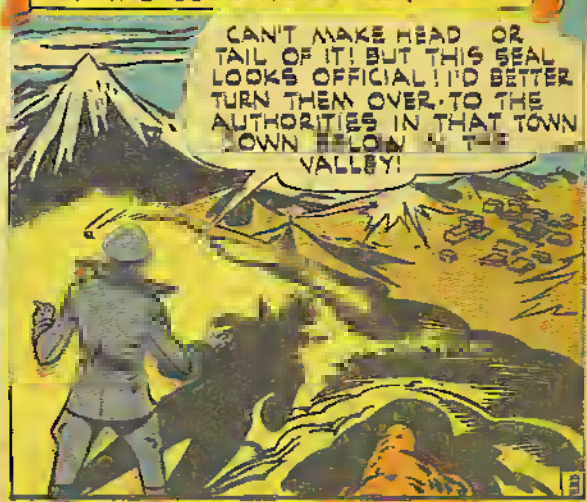
I DON'T SEEM TO REMEMBER WHAT I'M DOING HERE, AND WHO I AM? I CAN'T REMEMBER THAT EITHER!



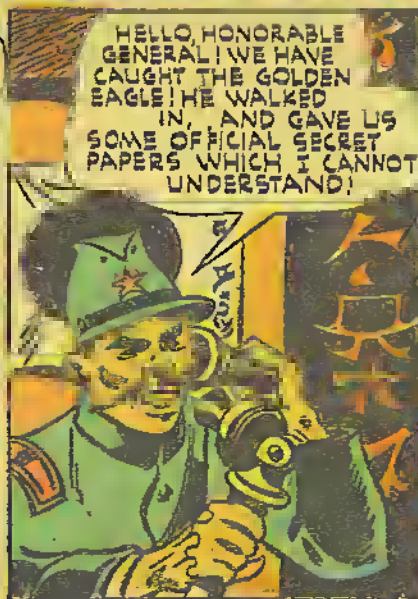
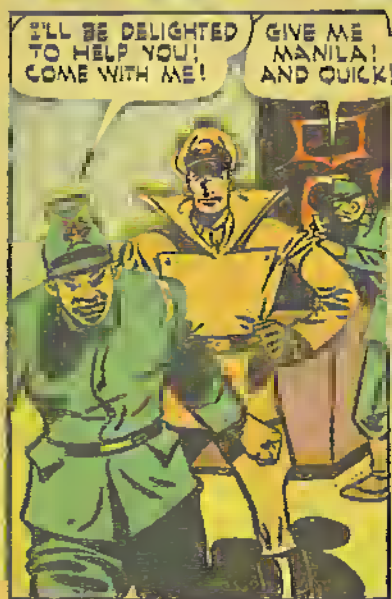
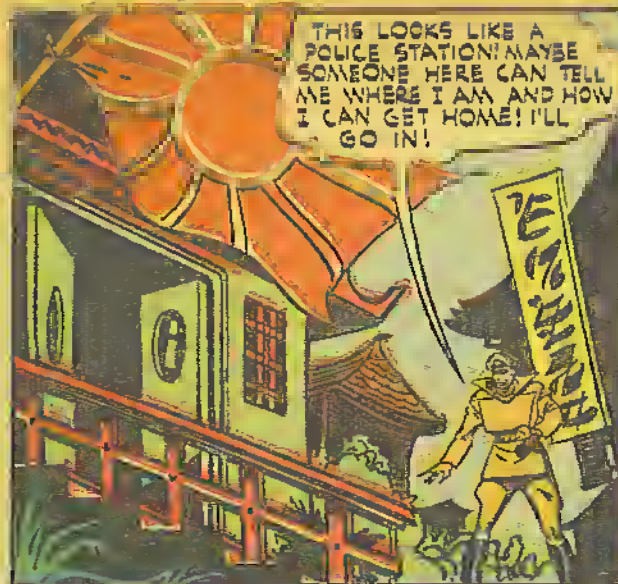
THESE PAPERS LYING AROUND! CAN THEY BE MINE? MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING IN THEM THAT WILL GIVE ME A CLUE TO MY IDENTITY!



GOLDEN EAGLE UNWITTINGLY PICKS UP THE CODE MESSAGE!



CAN'T MAKE HEAD OR TAIL OF IT! BUT THIS SEAL LOOKS OFFICIAL! I'D BETTER TURN THEM OVER TO THE AUTHORITIES IN THAT TOWN DOWN BELOW IN THE VALLEY!



BANZAI! THIS IS THE CHANCE I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR! OUR SPIES TOLD US HE WAS COMING! THE GOLDEN EAGLE IS OUR PRISONER! TONIGHT WE'LL BROADCAST TO THE WORLD THAT THE GOLDEN EAGLE HAS DESERTED!



MEANWHILE, SEND A MAN TO THE TOWN TO DECIPHER THE SECRET MESSAGE!

SOON WE WILL KNOW WHAT THE FILIPINO UNDERGROUND IS PLANNING!



THAT NIGHT THE JAPANESE RADIO BLARES FORTH A WORLD SHAKING REPORT!

THIS IS RADIO JAPAN! WE HAVE A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT! THE GOLDEN EAGLE HAS FLED TO THE JAPANESE PHILIPPINES!



IN THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FILIPINO UNDERGROUND!

WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT THE GOLDEN EAGLE WOULD TURN TRAITOR!

IT'S A JAP TRICK! HE WOULD NEVER RUN OUT ON US! HE'S PROBABLY BEEN CAPTURED!



WE'LL SOON FIND OUT! TONIGHT THEY ARE TAKING GOLDEN EAGLE TO MANILA! WE'LL BE THERE TO MEET THEM!



HEY! HERE THEY COME NOW!

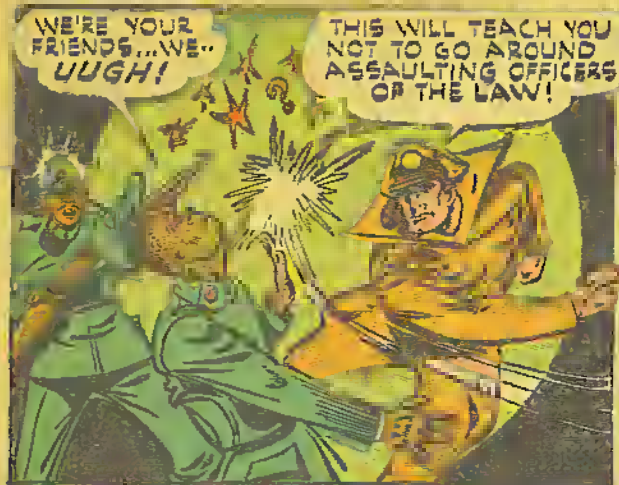
LET'S GO!



RUN GOLDEN EAGLE! NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHO ARE YOU?





IN THE SQUARE AN ANGRY, SULLEN, HELPLESS CROWD GATHERS TO WITNESS THE HANGING!

PEOPLE OF MANILA! THANKS TO GOLDEN EAGLE, YOU ARE GOING TO SEE THE EXECUTION OF THESE UNGRATEFUL PIGS!

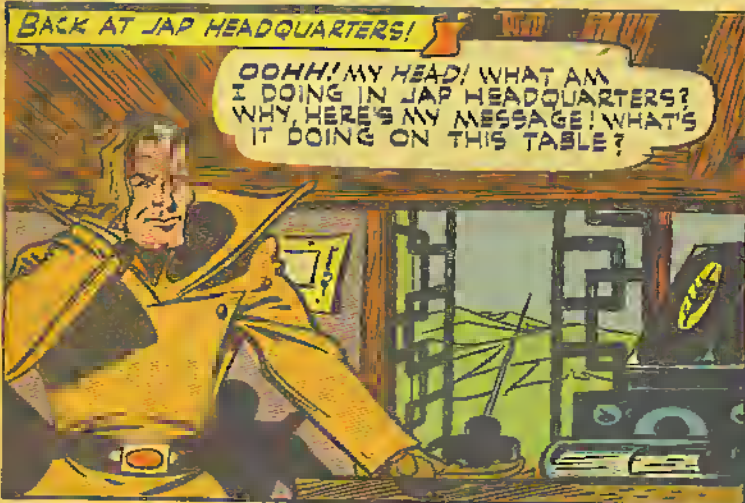
DOWN WITH THE GOLDEN EAGLE!

THEY ARE ENEMIES OF THE GLORIOUS JAPANESE STATE WHICH HAS DONE SO MUCH TO MAKE YOU HAPPY! PROCEED WITH THE HANGING!



BACK AT JAP HEADQUARTERS!

DOHH! MY HEAD! WHAT AM I DOING IN JAP HEADQUARTERS? WHY, HERE'S MY MESSAGE! WHAT'S IT DOING ON THIS TABLE?



I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I'VE BEEN HERE, BUT I'D BETTER GET TO THE UNDERGROUND WITH THIS IN A HURRY!

HEY! YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT!



HERE'S MY RECEIPT FOR IT!



SECONDS LATER!

SUFFERING CATFISH! THEY'RE GOING TO HANG THE UNDERGROUND AGENTS I WAS TO MEET! I'VE GOT TO SAVE THEM!



THE GOLDEN EAGLE! HE'S RECOVERED!

LOOKS LIKE HE'S ALSO RECOVERED HIS MEMORY!





BLACK VENUS

OVER THE CRAGGY MOUNTAIN PEAKS AND TRACK-LESS WASTES OF THAT LAND OF MYSTERY, TIBET ROARS THE BLACK VENUS! AND OUT OF THAT VAST WILDERNESS COMES A NEW THREAT TO THE AMERICANS IN INDIA! ONCE MORE THE BLACK-GARBED FIGURE OF AVENGING JUSTICE BATTLES THE HATED JAPANESE... ACROSS THE ROOF OF THE WORLD!



AT AN AMERICAN AIRBASE IN NORTHERN INDIA!

I'M SURE LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS DANCE TONIGHT! IT'S OUR FIRST IN TWO YEARS!

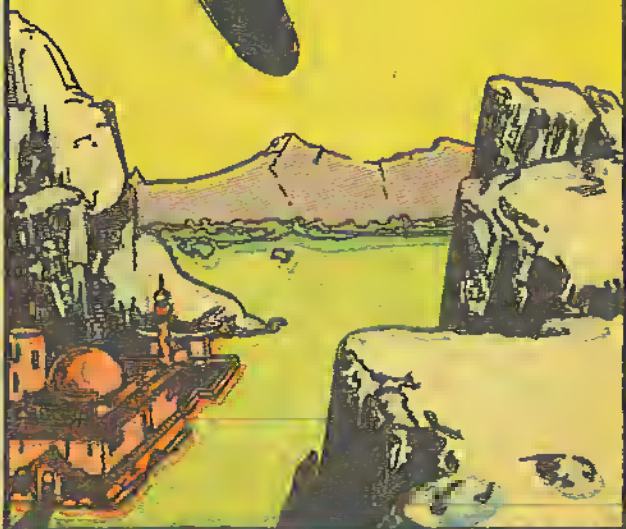
BOY! AM I GOING TO CUT A RUG! LET'S GO!



A SHORT TIME LATER!

HEY, GANG! HERE COMES THE COLONEL!

DON'T TELL ME THAT OLD WOMAN-HATER IS GOING TO THE DANCE!



GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN! I DON'T LIKE TO INTERRUPT YOUR FUN, BUT THERE'S A SPECIAL JOB TO BE DONE AT ONCE!



A STRONG JAP FORCE HAS INFILTRATED OUR LINES AND IS HARASSING OUR ARMY IN THE VICINITY OF THE LLAMA TEMPLE! WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUT WHERE THEY'RE COMING FROM!



OUR BEST CHANCE OF SPOTTING THEIR POINT OF BREAK-THROUGH IS FROM THE AIR! I WANT ONE VOLUNTEER FOR THIS MISSION! WHO'LL IT BE?



WELL... I'M WAITING! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU? YOU NEVER REFUSED TO VOLUNTEER FOR ANYTHING BEFORE!



JUST THEN!

HELLO! AREN'T YOU FELLOWS COMING IN TO THE DANCE?

BLACK VENUS! GOOOSH!



BUT I CAN'T DANCE WITH ALL OF YOU AT ONCE!

OH-OH! I GET IT!



WOULDN'T YOU LIKE THE FIRST DANCE, COLONEL?

AH... HARUMPH! NO, THANK YOU! THERE'S A JOB TO BE DONE AND IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO DO IT MYSELF!



WHAT JOB COULD IT BE THAT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN A DANCE?

AW! SOMETHING ABOUT A NIP BREAK-THROUGH NEAR THE LLAMA TEMPLE! C'MON, LET'S DANCE!



A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE COLONEL'S PLANE WINGS AWAY TOWARD THE LLAMA TEMPLE!



MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE DANCE!

THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS A MISSION FOR ONE MAN! THE COLONEL DOESN'T KNOW THAT COUNTRY AND I DO! BLACK VENUS IS GOING TO KEEP HIM COMPANY! JUST IN CASE!



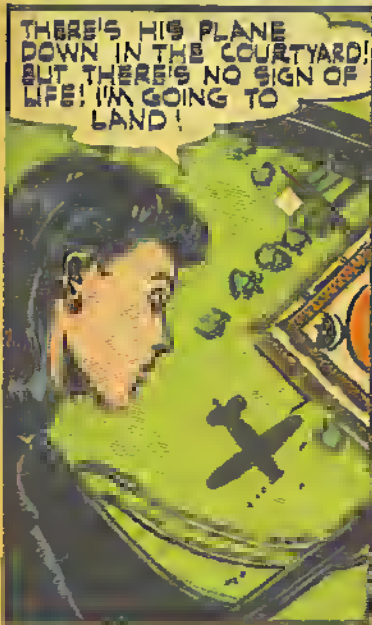
SUITING HER ACTIONS TO HER WORDS, BLACK VENUS BOARDS HER PLANE AND ROARS OFF!



AND A SHORT TIME LATER! NO SIGN OF THE COLONEL'S PLANE YET! BUT THERE'S THE LLAMA TEMPLE! I'LL DROP TO ONE THOUSAND AND TAKE A LOOK!



THERE'S HIS PLANE DOWN IN THE COURTYARD! BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF LIFE! I'M GOING TO LAND!

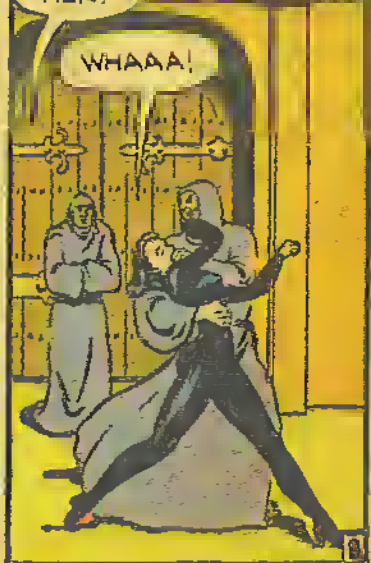


HHST! WHITE WOMAN APPROACHES!

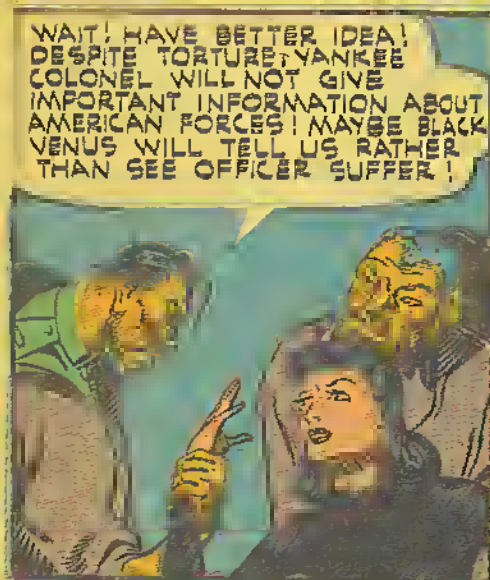
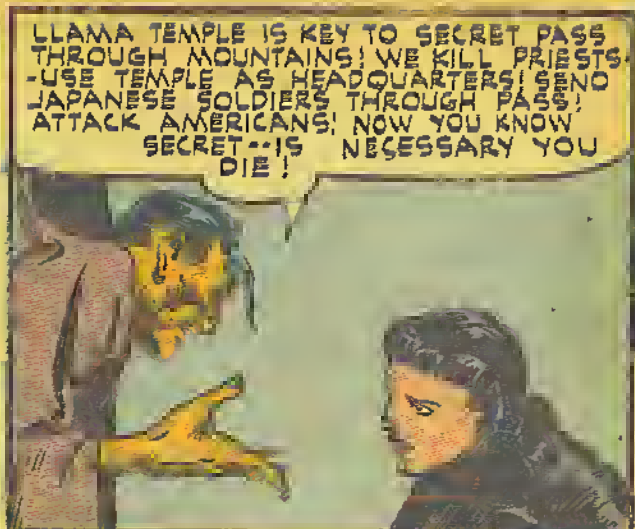


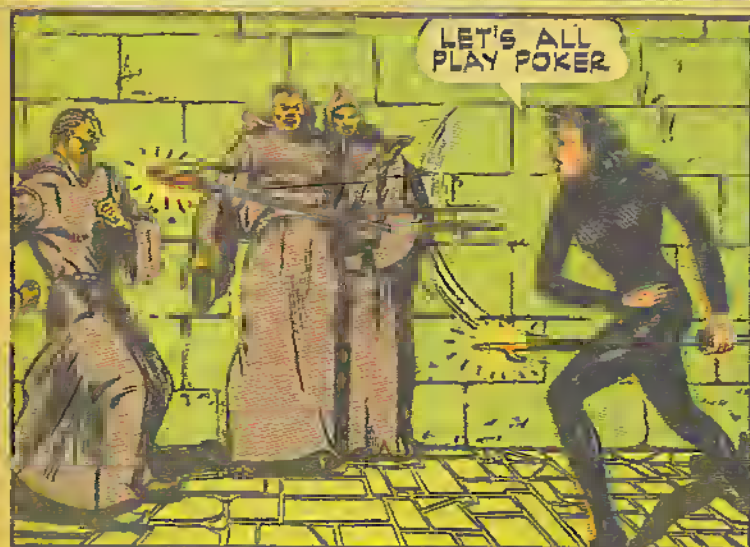
IT IS BLACK VENUS! I WILL GREET HER!

SEIZE HER!



WHAAA!







UGG!

IT'S NO USE! THERE ARE TOO MANY FOR US!

BUT JUST THEN!

THE PRELIMINARIES ARE OVER! HERE COMES THE WINDUP!

WELL, I'LL BE! IT'S MY SQUADRON!



PARDON US FOR RUSHING THINGS!



YOU GOT HERE JUST IN TIME! THOSE NIPS WON'T USE THE TEMPLE'S SECRET PASS ANY MORE! BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND US?



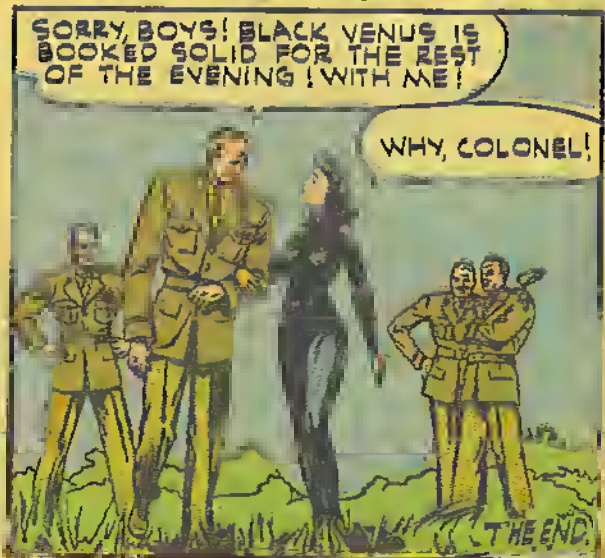
ONE OF THE GROUND CREW SAW BLACK VENUS LEAVE THE DANCE AND TAKE OFF! WE CAME AFTER HER AND SPOTTED YOUR PLANES IN THE COURTYARD! YOU KNOW THE REST!



WELL, LET'S GET BACK TO THE BASE! I HAVEN'T HAD A DANCE WITH VENUS YET!

NOR I!

NOR I!



SORRY, BOYS! BLACK VENUS IS BOOKED SOLID FOR THE REST OF THE EVENING! WITH ME!

WHY, COLONEL!

THE END

Trouble Shooters OF THE SKYWAY

LAUGHING AT DEATH AND DANGER... MEN OF THE FIRST RADIO SQUADRON OF THE AIR SERVICE COMMAND HAVE BECOME AFFECTIONATELY KNOWN AMONG THE A.A.F. AS **TROUBLE SHOOTERS OF THE SKYWAY!**... PERFORMING RADIO MIRACLES ALL OVER THE WORLD WITHOUT MEDALS, FANFARE OR PUBLICITY!



MANY OF THE RADIO'S MEN HAD NO EXPERIENCE BEFORE ARMY INDUCTION!... BUT ALL BECAME QUALIFIED RADIO OPERATORS AFTER AN INTENSIVE COURSE AT SCOTT FIELD, ILLINOIS!



WHEN THEY ARE NOT IN THE FIELD... THE MEN ATTEND SCHOOL AT COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, PATTERSON FIELD, NEAR DAYTON, OHIO!... KEEPING UP WITH THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN RADIO!



LAST YEAR THE FIRST THUNDERBOLT FIGHTERS RECEIVE A ROUSING WELCOME UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN ENGLAND!



That AFTERNOON!

JONES, GIVE THE RADIO APPARATUS A THOROUGH GOING OVER! I WANT THAT BIRD IN THE AIR TOMORROW!

YES, SIR!



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS!

THERE'S SO MUCH STATIC I CAN'T HEAR, A BLAMED THING!



LATER!

MEN, WE'VE HAD TO GROUND EVERYONE OF THE THUNDERBOLTS! A NEW KIND OF STATIC-LIKE INTERFERENCE HAS KILLED RECEPTION ON ALL THEIR RADIOS!



CHECK AND TEAR DOWN THOSE RADIOS!... RIP APART THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM AND FIND OUT WHAT'S WRONG!... AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN!

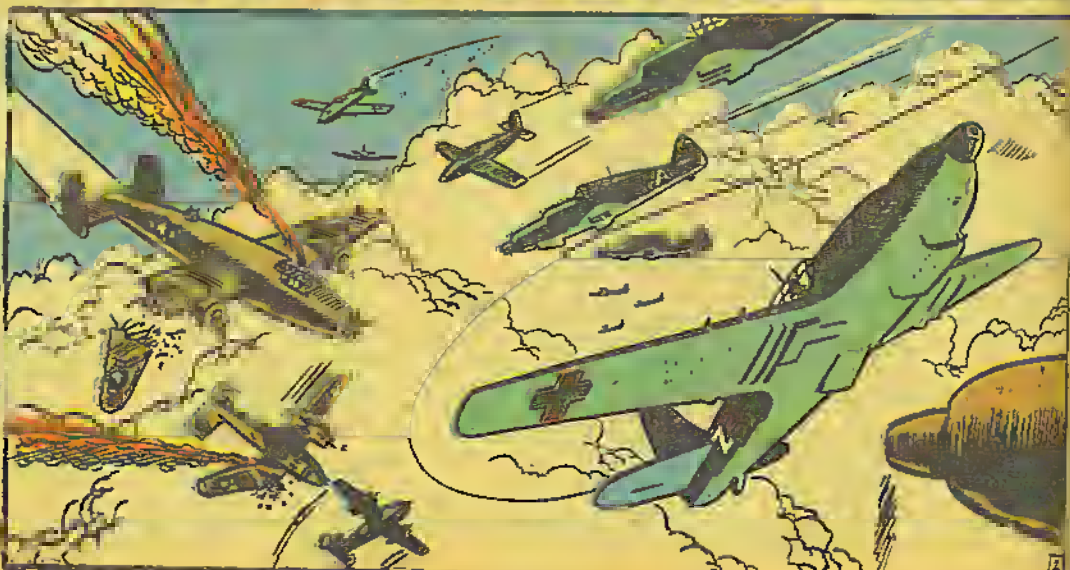


FIND ANYTHING YET, BILL?

NO! EXCEPT MORE STATIC THAN EVER!



MEAN- WHILE THE NAZIS TAKE A HEAVY TOLL OF OUR BIG BOMBERS, FLYING WITHOUT LONG RANGE ESCORT!



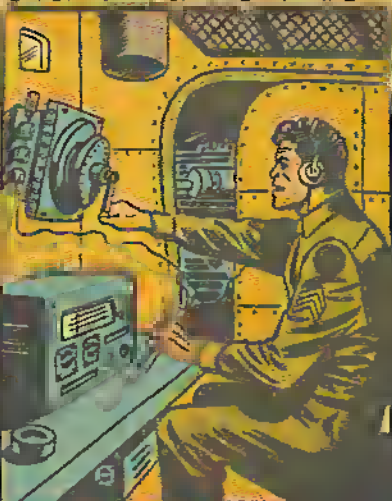
Then a call is made to the first radio squadron in Dayton, Ohio!



The next day... a radio trouble shooter arrives in England!



Minutes later, he starts checking a Thunderbolt radio!



Next, he uses the continuity checker to test the receiver!



After three hours!

YOU HAVEN'T LOCATED THE TROUBLE SO QUICKLY, SERGEANT?

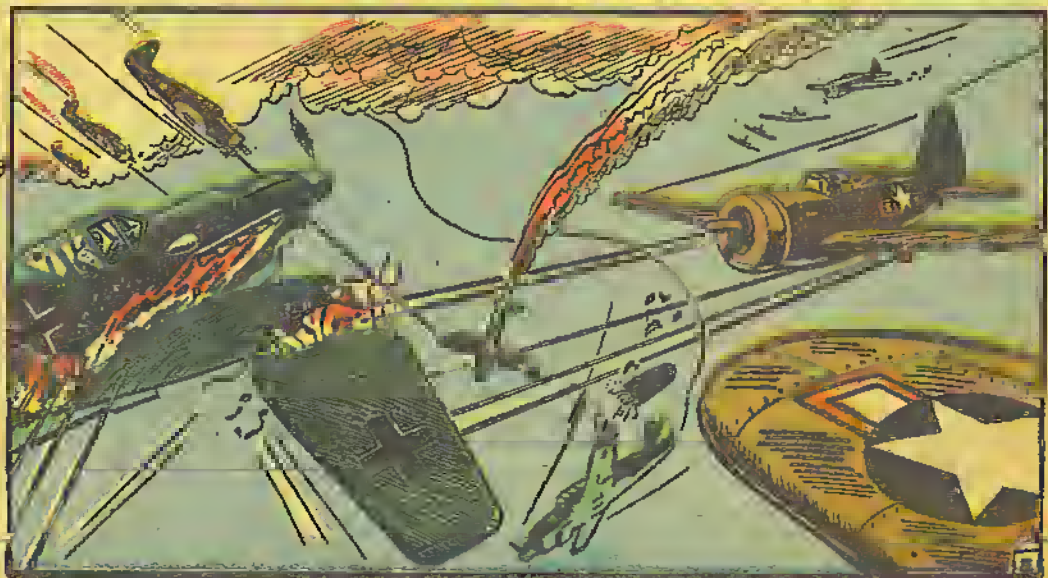
WHY, YES, SIR... I HAVE! IT'S ALL DUE TO A CHEMICAL APPLIED TO THE ENGINES TO SHIELD THEM AGAINST ENGLISH DAMPNESS!



The sergeant is rushed to all P-47 bases to show air crew chiefs how to correct the trouble!



Soon... the mighty Thunderbolts accompanying our big bombers take a heavy toll of Nazi planes!



IN 1942-43... THE JAPANESE IN THE ALEUTIANS JAM THE FREQUENCIES ON OUR PLANES MAKING THEM INEFFECTIVE!



OFTEN...THE JAPS SEND OUT FAKE ORDERS TO CONFUSE YANK PLANES!

TO ALL BOMBERS!...PLEASE RETURN TO BASE AT ONCE!



TO FOIL THE ENEMY, AIR SERVICE COMMAND RUSHES A CREW OF TROUBLE SHOOTERS TO THE ALEUTIANS!



AFTER INSTALLING HIGH FREQUENCY EQUIPMENT...THE REPAIRMEN CHECK THE TRANSMITTER ON EACH PLANE.



ON BLEAK ADAK ISLAND...A SEVERE EARTHQUAKE DELAYED VITAL REPAIRS!



ON ANOTHER ISLAND...THE REPAIRMEN BATTLED A 120 MILE AN HOUR GALE FOR 24 HOURS!...BUT DESPITE ALL OBSTACLES THE JOB WAS COMPLETED IN NINE MONTHS ON SCHEDULE!



LAST YEAR A CREW OF 16 TROUBLE SHOOTERS ARRIVE IN INDIA TO INSTALL A NEW DEVICE ON THREE HUNDRED PLANES!



SHORTLY AFTER THEIR ARRIVAL THE MEN RECEIVE A RADIOGRAM!

LISTEN TO THIS, FELLOWS! PATTERSON FIELD HAS WORKED OUT IMPROVEMENT ON DEVICE! NEW INSTRUCTIONS ARRIVING BY PLANE!

HOLY COW! THEY CAN'T DO THAT!



The NEXT DAY!

LISTEN, GANG!... WE'LL GET UP A MINIATURE PRODUCTION LINE AND REBUILD THE MACHINES!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, GARGE!



THEN, WE'LL DO THE IMPOSSIBLE, SWEETHEART!... JONES, YOU TAKE THE COVER OFF THE MACHINE! BROWN, TAKE OFF THE RESISTOR!



FOUR DAYS LATER!

HERE COMES THE LAST MACHINE OFF THE ASSEMBLY LINE, GARGE!

SWELL! NOW LET'S INSTALL THEM IN THE PLANES!



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS... UNITED STATES PLANES CARRYING THE WORLD'S MOST MODERN EQUIPMENT POUND JAP INSTALLATIONS IN BURMA!



IN ALL THEATERS OF WAR... THIS 2 1/2 TON REPAIR TRUCK/ SERVICES ANY TYPE OF COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT.



TO MEET UNUSUAL CONDITIONS... RADIO TROUBLE SHOOTERS HAVE INVENTED NEW EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS IN MANY CASES!



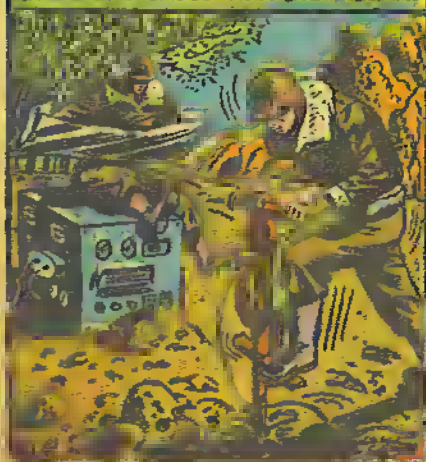
THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE INVENTIONS IS THE INGENUOUS CONTINUITY CHECKER, CREATED BY SGT. WILLIAM H. WARE!... BY WHICH LOOSE CONNECTIONS AND SHORT CIRCUITS ARE LOCATED WITHOUT REMOVING THE SET FROM THE PLANE!



TECH. SGT. WELDON WITHERS HAS DEVELOPED AN INVALUABLE DEVICE TO DEMONSTRATE HIGH FREQUENCY WAVE CHARACTERISTICS!



OTHER MEN HAVE INVENTED MANY ADDITIONAL DEVICES ONLY A FEW MILES FROM THE BATTLE FRONT!... SAVING VALUABLE HOURS OF TOIL!



DESPITE WEATHER... BOMBS... OR INJURIES... THE RADIO TROUBLE SHOOTERS OF THE SKYWAYS ARE ALWAYS ON THE JOB WHEN THEY ARE NEEDED... EAGER TO DO THEIR BIT IN WINNING THE WAR!

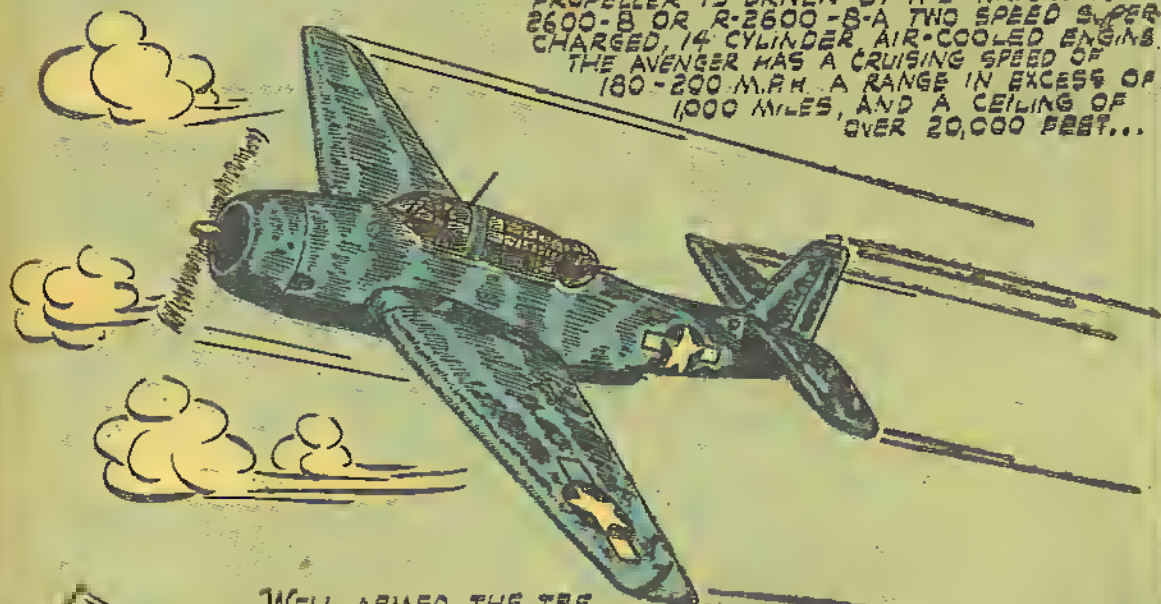


Avenger

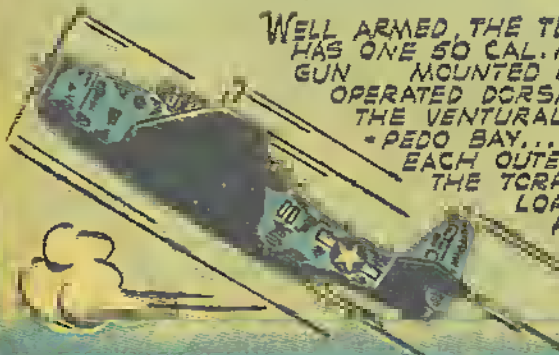
THE GRUMMAN TBF AVENGER, A SEVEN-TON SHIP CARRYING A CREW OF THREE, IS THE FINEST CARRIER-BASED TORPEDO BOMBER IN THE WORLD... IT'S MANY USES OTHER THAN TORPEDOING, INCLUDE HIGH-LEVEL BOMBING, LAYING BOMBS IN ENEMY WATERS, SKIP BOMBING, MASTHEAD BOMBING, AND DROPPING DEPTH CHARGES ON SUBMARINES, AND SCOUTING... THE AVENGER HAS SERVED AS ITS OWN FIGHTER PROTECTION IN EMERGENCIES...



A THREE-BLADE HAMILTON HYDRO-MATIC PROPELLER IS DRIVEN BY ITS WRIGHT R-2600-B OR R-2600-B-A TWO SPEED SUPERCHARGED, 14 CYLINDER AIR-COOLED ENGINE. THE AVENGER HAS A CRUISING SPEED OF 180-200 M.P.H. A RANGE IN EXCESS OF 1000 MILES, AND A CEILING OF OVER 20,000 FEET...



WELL ARMED, THE TBF HAS ONE 50 CAL. MACHINE GUN MOUNTED IN THE POWER-OPERATED DORSAL TURRET, A FLEXIBLE GUN MOUNTED ON THE VENTRAL HATCH IN THE AFTER-PART OF THE TORPEDO BAY... A 50 CAL. MACHINE GUN IS INSTALLED IN EACH OUTER WING PANEL OF THE NEWEST AVENGER. THE TORPEDO BAY IS MADE TO CARRY VARIOUS LOADS, SUCH AS BOMBS UP TO 1500 POUNDS, MARK 15-1 OR 15-2 TORPEDO, TOW TARGET SMOKE SCREEN TANK, OR A DROPPABLE FUEL TANK...



PAUL TARKER

A 26



Invader



Under a bright cloudless sky a nondescript plane seemed to be heading towards the landing field. From the distance its bird-like appearance was just like any ordinary army training plane—but as it neared the landing tower two aviation cadets, Tom Burrows and George Naguraki looked forward eagerly towards meeting the veteran pilot, Major Dick Breen, who had just returned from the South-Pacific battle zone. It was the Major's first flight since his return from active duty.

As the plane came to a halt the ardent cadets both drank in the spectacle of the plane. Its harmless appearance on the ground belied the effective striking power in the sky. "Say, George, how'd you like the way she streaked in at tree-top level when she made that three-point landing?" inquired Tom, enthusiastically. "Boy, she's a beauty—I only wish I knew what type of plane it is," countered George, with an almost ecstatic tone in his reply.

"Supposing we ask Major Breen"—retorted Tom. "He's our instructor in Advanced Aviation, and he should be able to tell us all about this plane." As the Major alighted from his plane the two Aviation cadets hurriedly sprinted over to the plane and acted as a committee to welcome their new instructor and simultaneously satisfying their pentup curiosity. "Good morning, sir," echoed the two cadets—"Would you be good enough to tell us what type of plane this is"—pointing rapturously to the plane. In broad, majestic voice, the Major assured the cadets that the information would be theirs on the following morning, when the first class in Advanced Aviation would take place.

The following morning rolled around—but not fast enough for our two cadets, who were eager to gather all the information about a miracle plane they had heard about from their Commanding Officer. The classroom was filled to capacity at Moffet Field, when in strode a suave and sophisticated Major to deliver the first lecture to a group of anxious cadets. "All right, gentlemen, I've had several inquiries regarding

the plane I flew yesterday—and for the benefit of all of you present today, I would suggest you open your books and copy the most salient points which I will discuss."

In lightning fashion the boys gave the Major their undivided attention. "The plane we are going to discuss today is the A-26—our newest attack bomber." The Major continued "The Germans started it with the Stuka dive-bomber, but eventually the Stuka died over the Western front and Britain. Although it did a devastating job against undefended targets, its lack of defensive armament made it a clay pigeon for fast Allied fighters. Our own A-24's met a similar fate. Yet, the mission for which the dive-bomber was intended—to knock out ground installations paving the way for troops—still was an important play in the game of modern war. There was but one alternative—fast light bombers with heavy firepower attacking at low altitudes, an adaptation of attack aviation which the AAF had originated years before with the Curtiss Falcon and the A-17." . . . The cadets drank in all this wonderful knowledge and our two inquisitive cadets warmly shook their heads, in total agreement of what their instructor had lectured.

The Major's dissertation on the A-26 kept the cadets spellbound. He continued—"Thus did the attack bomber come into its own. In England, Africa, the South Pacific, A-20's and Beau-fighters strafed and bombed the enemy and fought their way back to bases. Then came the A-46—a 'new terror' they called it. Other types of planes soon pressed home the new tactical offensive: B-26's with a dozen guns skimming low on sneak raids, B-25's with a 75 mm cannon smashing lap shipping, even B-17's used for low-flying attack missions in New Guinea. Now, packaging all improvements possible from extensive experience with these fighting planes, comes the AAF's newest, fastest and deadliest attack bomber—the A-26 Invader, which is now seeing action on all Allied fronts."

"How fast is the A-26 Invader?" queried one of the cadets. With a boastful shrug of the shoulders, Major Breen replied to the class — "Fast?—Why, the Invader is the fastest bomber ever built in this country. It is a hopped-up, tough, big brother to the Boston. It's so speedy and nimble, the A-26 can strike from tree-top altitude and present only a flash exposure to ack-ack fire. The Invader is designed specifically for operations against enemy aircraft on the ground, naval vessels, landing parties, wharves, towns harboring enemy troops, anti-aircraft emplacements, supply dumps, tanks and troops on the march or in bivouac.

"Let us continue with some other wonderful improvements in the A-26. The fighter-bomber is a product of the Douglas Aircraft Company, and is the offspring of the A-24 and the A-20. Douglas now has the new bomber in mass production and has made possible its remarkable potentialities by use of some exceptional features." The entire class was enraptured in that last statement, for the cadets had been anxiously waiting to hear all these features. Major Breen smiled contentedly as he glanced at his notes in an objective manner. "The Invader is designed to carry an extremely flexible selection of guns, cannons and bombs or fuel which should make its offensive striking power adaptable in almost any combat situation. It is exceptionally clean aerodynamically, employing the recently developed NACA low-drag (Laminar Flow) airfoil wing section. It is equipped with twin 2,000 horsepower R-2800 series engines, and has a new double-slotted flap which reduces landing speed and assists take-off.

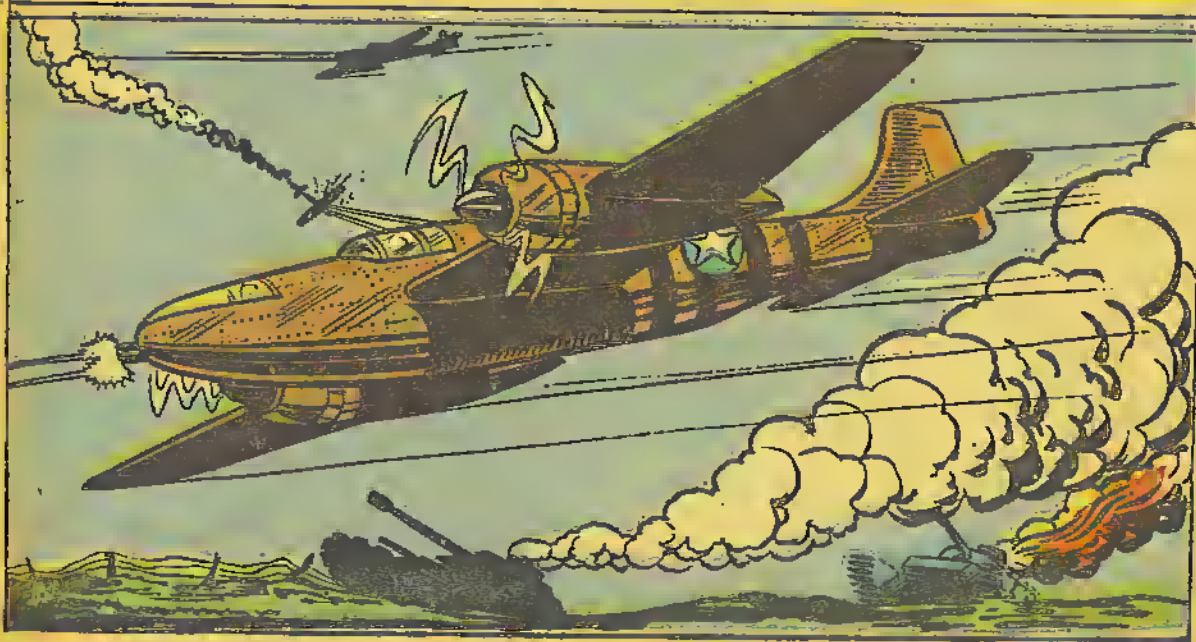
"The most remarkable feature of this new fighter-bomber is that the entire plane employs features of maintenance simplification stressing accessibility to all parts. Any ground crewman accustomed to work on the A-20 should be able quickly to adapt himself to the Invader. In a casual conversation with one of the mechanics

at Moffet Field, I inquired if there was any radical change between the B-25's and the Invader." The repairman quipped: 'This baby is a repairman's dream.' . . . I received the same response from a great many mechanics at all our leading flying fields. The boys couldn't praise it enough when it came to maintaining the A-26."

While the Major eloped momentarily, Tom Burrows snapped his hand high in the air, desiring information which would clarify certain questions which were yet unanswered. "Major," inquired Tom, "what is the opinion of some of the pilots who have flown the Invader?"

"I'll be glad to answer that question for you," retorted Major Breen, with a benign smile. "We have many reports from pilots who have flown the ship during tests, on its flight characteristics. . . . All agree that the A-26 is one of the best flying aircraft they ever have flown. It is extremely easy to handle, has well-grouped controls, comfortable seating, good maneuverability and is devoid of any vicious tricks. Also, there is no tendency to snap off into a spin, and the plane performs beautifully in a stall. Fliers who have had the happy experience of piloting the ship had only the highest praise on its performance. All were unanimous in their great praise by stating that the A-26 can be the greatest striking arm of the Air Force."

This was the initial lecture and the cadets left the classroom with a feeling that the time spent was not merely to occupy space, but gained knowledge which would come in mighty useful when their turn came to sit in the controls of America's new fighter-bomber, the A-26. As they departed there was an undertone of discussion regarding the wonderful improvements in the air-might of the U. S. . . . But the two students who enjoyed the lecture best was Tom Burrows and George Nagurski, the two cadets who manifested the greatest interest and who were rewarded by an interesting lecture on the miracle plane—the A-26.

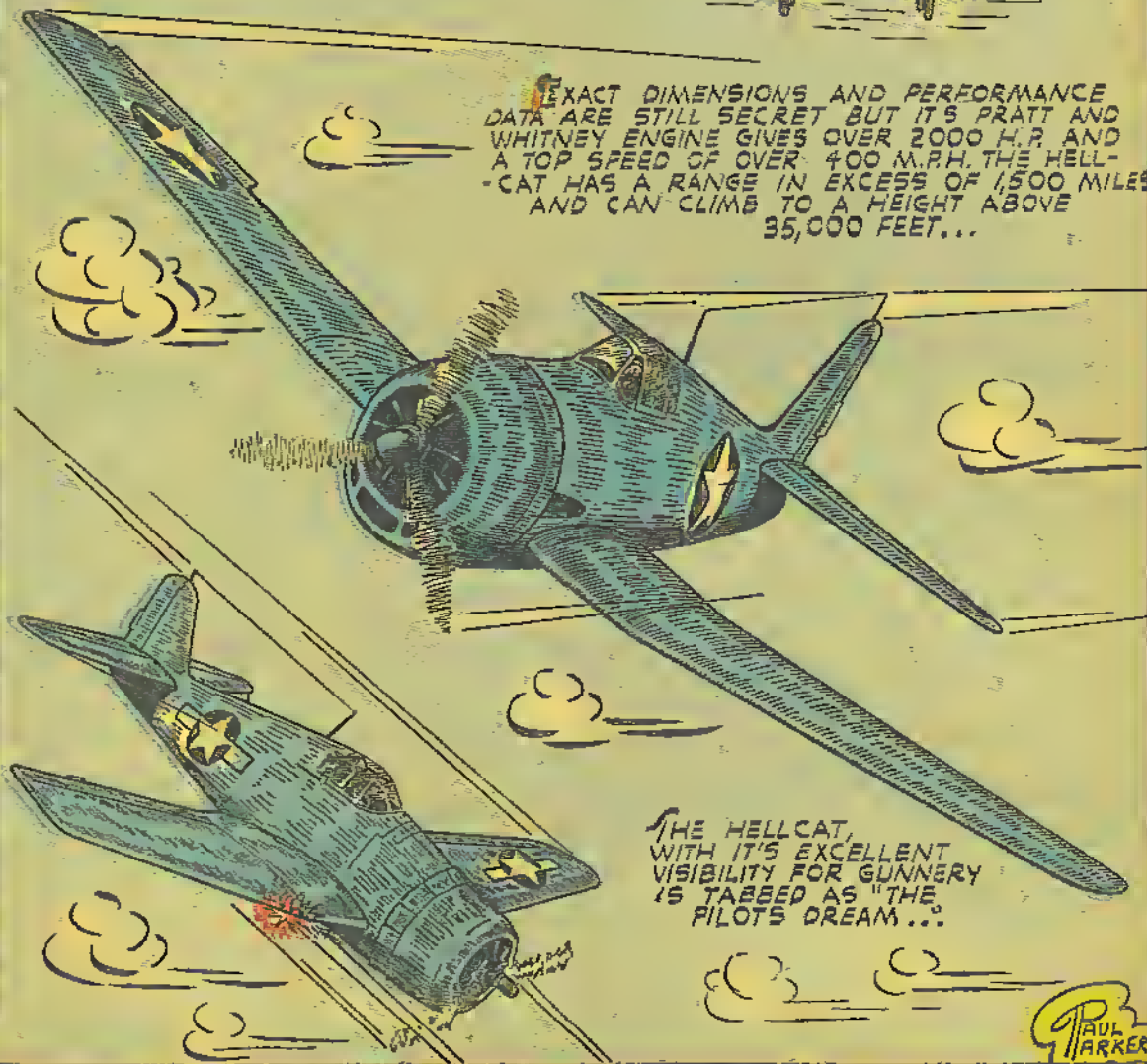


Hellcat

THE GRUMMAN F6F HELLCAT IS REGARDED AS THE BEST ALL-AROUND CARRIER FIGHTER... IT'S HEAVY ARMOR, FAST CLIMBING SPEED AND MAGNIFICENT MANEUVERABILITY MAKES IT ABOUT THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL CARRIER-BASED PLANE... IT WAS USED EXTENSIVELY IN LANDINGS ON THE MARIANAS ISLANDS AND OTHER SOUTH PACIFIC THEATRES OF OPERATION...



EXACT DIMENSIONS AND PERFORMANCE DATA ARE STILL SECRET BUT ITS PRATT AND WHITNEY ENGINE GIVES OVER 2000 H.P. AND A TOP SPEED OF OVER 400 M.P.H. THE HELL-CAT HAS A RANGE IN EXCESS OF 1,500 MILES AND CAN CLIMB TO A HEIGHT ABOVE 35,000 FEET...



THE HELLCAT, WITH IT'S EXCELLENT VISIBILITY FOR GUNNERY IS TABBED AS "THE PILOTS DREAM..."

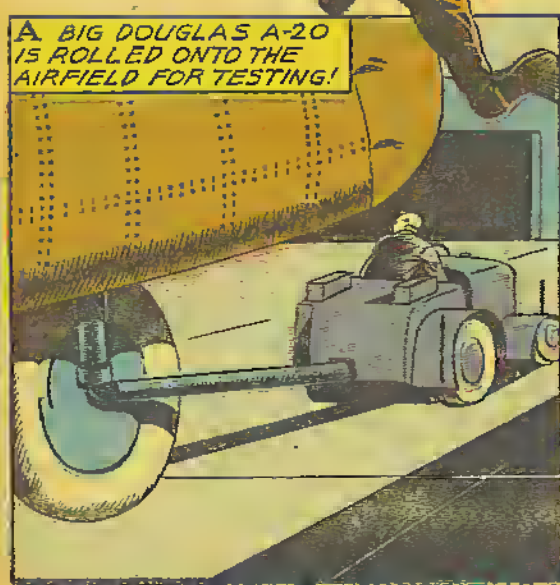
PAUL PARKER

TROUBLE SHOOTERS



AERIAL DARE-DEVILS OF THE HOME FRONT ARE TROUBLE SHOOTERS AT AMERICA'S COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT PLANTS... TEST PILOTS WHO DAILY RISK THEIR LIVES TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT YANK AVIATORS FLY THE BEST AND THE SAFEST WARPLANES IN THE WORLD!

A BIG DOUGLAS A-20 IS ROLLED ONTO THE AIRFIELD FOR TESTING!



FIRST, COMES A COMPLETE PRE-FLIGHT CHECK BY THE GROUND CREW!



TROUBLE SHOOTERS CHECK THE HYDRAULIC BRAKELINE INSTALLATION FOR FLAWS!



AN INSPECTOR GOES OVER THE AUXILIARY FUEL TANK WHICH IS FITTED BELOW THE BOMB BAY!



OTHER GROUND INSPECTORS CHECK THE RUDDER TRIM TAB OF THE NEW PLANE.



THEN... ONE OF THE DOUGLAS TEST PILOTS CLIMBS INTO AN A-20 HAVOC!



NEXT... HE CHECKS THE INSTRUMENTS AND CONTROLS!



HE ADVISES THE GROUND CREW OF HIS NEXT MOVE!

STAND BY... I'M READY TO START THE ENGINE UP!



AS THE MIGHTY ENGINE GOES INTO ACTION FOR THE FIRST TIME... FIRE FIGHTING EQUIPMENT IS KEPT HANDY FOR AN EMERGENCY!



AFTER CHECKING HIS INSTRUMENTS... THE PILOT WRITES ANSWERS TO THE MANY QUESTIONS ON THE CHECK SHEETS!



READY FOR THE TAKEOFF... THE PILOT CLOSES THE TOP OF THE COCKPIT!



THEN THE BIG BOMBER TAKES DOWN THE FIELD... AND GRACEFULLY SOARS INTO THE SKY ON ITS FIRST FLIGHT!



AS SOON AS HE GAINS A COMFORTABLE ALTITUDE... THE PILOT RECORDS INSTRUMENT READINGS DURING THE TAKEOFF!



BECAUSE THE ENGINES ARE NEW AND MUST BE BROKEN IN GRADUALLY... THE TEST PILOT CRUISES AT A SLOW SPEED!

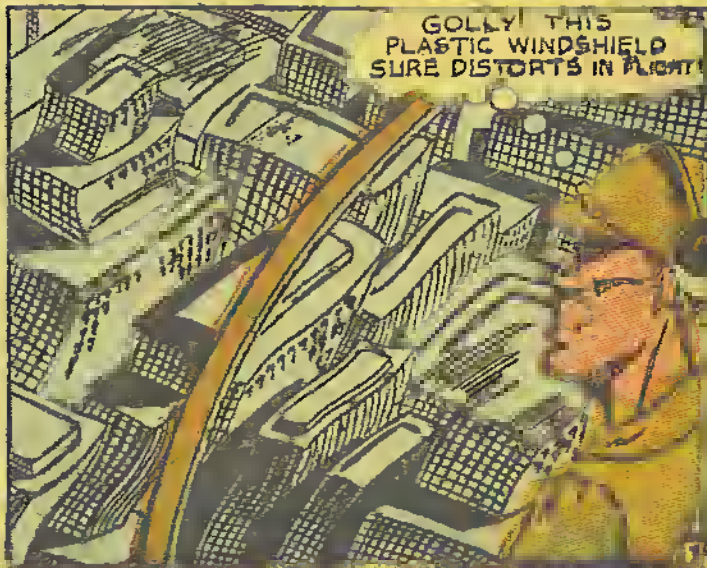


MOST IMPERFECTIONS IN CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION ARE USUALLY SPOTTED DURING THE FIRST FLIGHT!

HM-MMM! THE AIR SPEED INDICATOR REGISTERS FORTY MILES PER HOUR AT WIDE OPEN THROTTLE!



GOLLY! THIS PLASTIC WINDSHIELD SURE DISTORTS IN FLIGHT!



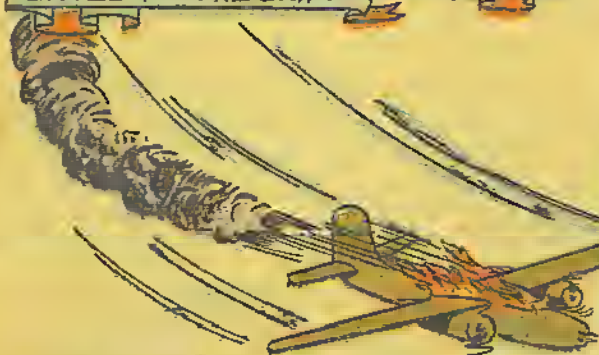
OCCASIONALLY THE
COMMAND RADIO REFUSES
TO RECEIVE ON ALL
FREQUENCIES!

SOMETIMES PLANES
CATCH AFIRE!

I'VE GOT TO GET
THIS CRATE DOWN...
AND QUICK!



AS THE PLANE COMES DOWN FLAMES
ENVELOP THE SHIP!



SUDDENLY HIS PARACHUTE STRAPS
CATCH AND HE STUMBLES... AS
FLAMING GASOLINE FROM A BROKEN
FUEL LINE POURS ON THE GROUND
BELOW HIM!



WITH CONSUMMATE SKILL THE PILOT
LANDS HIS SHIP... THEN CLIMBS OUT
ON THE WING!



THOUGH HIS LEGS ARE BADLY BURNED...
THE PILOT HOISTS HIMSELF UP AGAIN...
CRAWLS TO THE OTHER WING... AND JUMPS
TWELVE FEET TO SAFETY...



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS DOUGLAS OFFICIALS MAKE CERTAIN THAT SIMILAR ACCIDENTS WILL NOT RE-OCCUR!

MEN, IN THE FUTURE IF A FIRE CAN'T BE EXTINGUISHED, YOU ARE TO ABANDON YOUR PLANE AND BAIL OUT! YOUR LIFE IS MUCH MORE VALUABLE THAN YOUR PLANE!



SOMETIMES DURING A FIRST FLIGHT THE FIRE ALARM SYSTEM GOES HAYWIRE... THE PILOT TAKES NO CHANCES.

YERKS!
ONE OF THE
ENGINES IS
AFIRE!



HE PILOT FEATHERS THE ENGINE'S PROPELLER... CUTS THE IGNITION SWITCH... AND PULLS THE TOGGLE... RELEASING CARBON DIOXIDE IN THAT ENGINE NACELLE!



HE CONTINUES TO CRUISE UNTIL HE IS SURE THE FIRE, IF ANY, HAS BEEN EXTINGUISHED... AFTER WHICH HE LANDS!



MORE SERIOUS... DURING TEST FLIGHTS... ARE OCCASIONAL HYDRAULIC SYSTEM FAILURES... WHICH LEAVE THE PILOT WITHOUT BRAKES!

I'LL HAVE TO
DISENGAGE THE
LANDING GEAR
FROM THE
RETRACTED
POSITION!



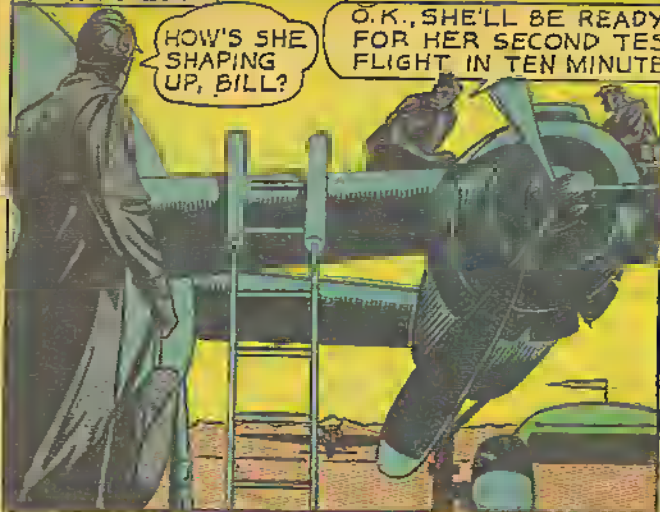
THIS ALLOWS
THE WHEELS TO
FALL BY GRAVITY
INTO LANDING
POSITION... WHERE
THEY LOCK IN
PLACE!



NOW HE CAN LAND... BUT STILL FACES THE PROBLEM OF BRINGING THE PLANE TO AN ABRUPT HALT... POSSIBLY ON A SHORT RUNWAY!



AFTER THE PLANE LANDS ALL DEFECTS ARE REMEDIED!



HOW'S SHE SHAPING UP, BILL?

O.K., SHE'LL BE READY FOR HER SECOND TEST FLIGHT IN TEN MINUTES!

DURING THE SECOND FLIGHT!

OH BOY, THIS OLD GAL'S BEHAVING LIKE AN OLDTIMER!



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS... THE PLANE MAKES ITS THIRD TRIP. THE ACCEPTANCE FLIGHT. AFTER WHICH IT IS TURNED OVER TO THE ARMY!



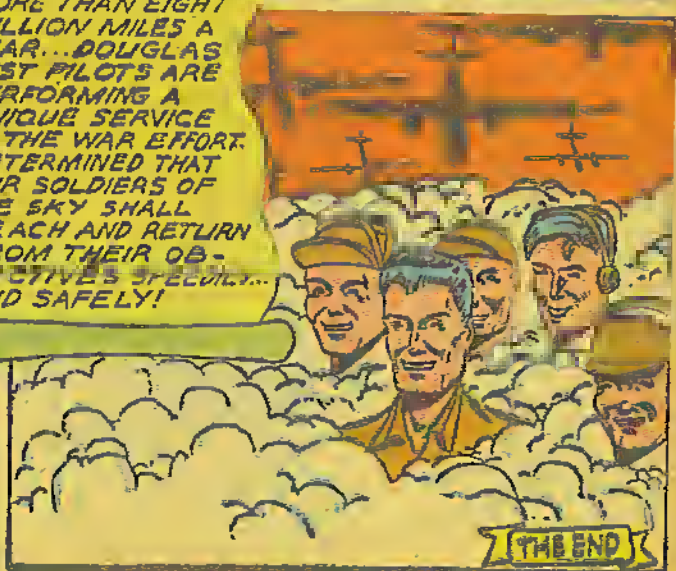
DOUGLAS' PRODUCTION FLIGHT TEST DEPARTMENT ALSO INCLUDES A SPECIAL CORPS OF FLYERS WHO ACT AS TROUBLE SHOOTERS FOR THE ARMED FORCES ALL OVER THE WORLD!



THESE MEN SHOW ARMY PILOTS HOW TO GET THE BEST PERFORMANCES FROM THEIR DOUGLAS PLANES!



MAKING MORE THAN FORTY THOUSAND FLIGHTS AND FLYING MORE THAN EIGHT MILLION MILES A YEAR... DOUGLAS TEST PILOTS ARE PERFORMING A UNIQUE SERVICE IN THE WAR EFFORT. DETERMINED THAT OUR SOLDIERS OF THE SKY SHALL REACH AND RETURN FROM THEIR OBJECTIVES SPECILY... AND SAFELY!

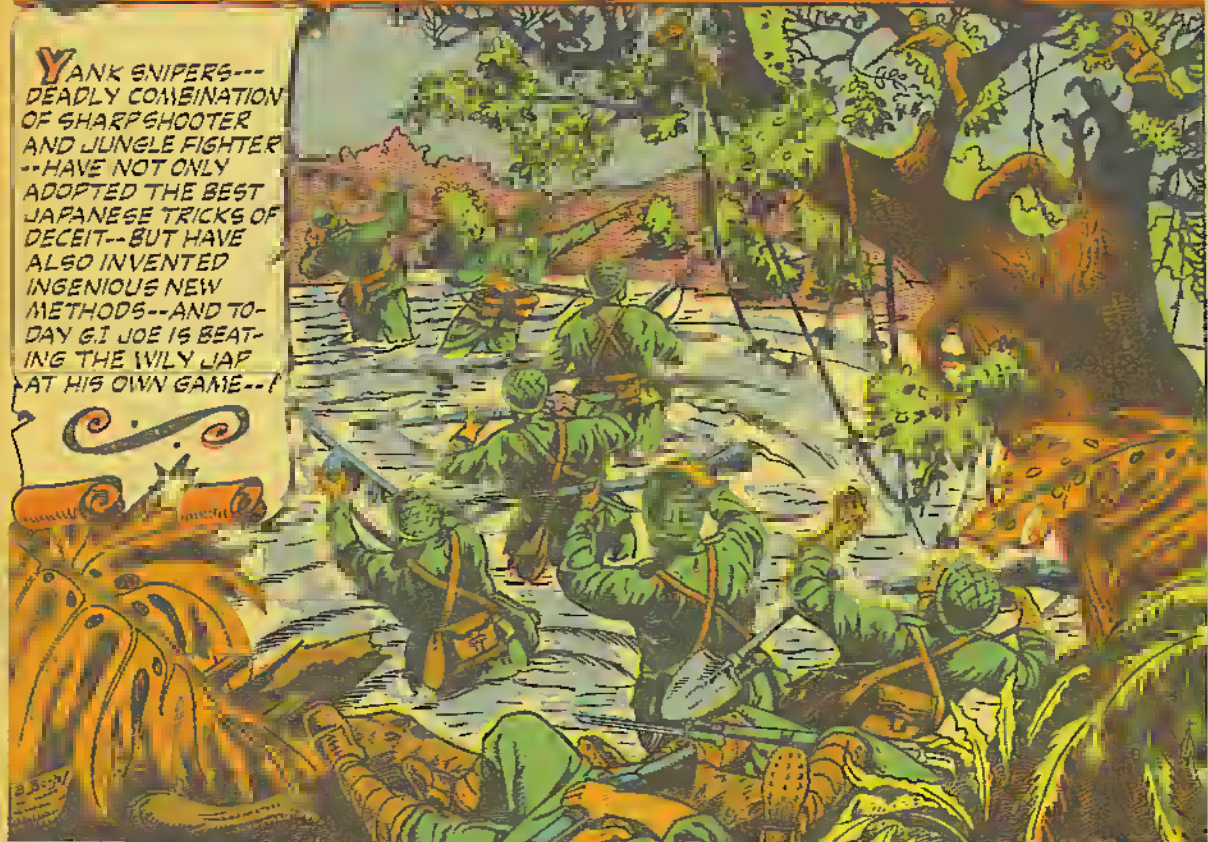


THE END

SNIPER

G.I. STYLE

YANK SNIPERS---
DEADLY COMBINATION
OF SHARPSHOOTER
AND JUNGLE FIGHTER
--HAVE NOT ONLY
ADOPTED THE BEST
JAPANESE TRICKS OF
DECEIT--BUT HAVE
ALSO INVENTED
INGENIOUS NEW
METHODS--AND TO-
DAY G.I. JOE IS BEAT-
ING THE WILY JAP
AT HIS OWN GAME--!



DURING THE EARLY DAYS
OF THE WAR IN THE PACIFIC
--- U.S. OFFICERS REPORT
THAT HALF OF THEIR LOSSES
ARE DUE TO RIFLE SHOTS---
NOT MACHINE GUNS OR BULLETS---

MOST SNIPERS USE
SMOKELESS POWDER---
AND THEIR RIFLES ARE
EQUIPPED WITH SILENCERS---



AN ALERT AMERICAN PATROL PUSHES ITS WAY THROUGH THE JUNGLES WITH THE STEALTH OF A PANTHER---



SUDDENLY-- THE MEN ARE FROZEN IN THEIR TRACKS BY A SHARP EXPLOSION FROM THE DENSE FOLIAGE--FIFTEEN YARDS AHEAD---



IT'S A SNIPER--UP IN THAT TREE---

YEAH-- BUT HOW'LL WE GET HIM--BEFORE HE GETS US!



ONE OF US WILL HAVE TO ACT AS A DECOY-- THEN, WE'LL NAB THAT MONKEY--!

I'LL HAVE A TRY AT IT, SARGE!



THE SOLDIER CRAWLS TO A POINT ONE HUNDRED YARDS FROM HIS PATROL---



THEN--HE DELIBERATELY FIRES HIS RIFLE INTO THE AIR--



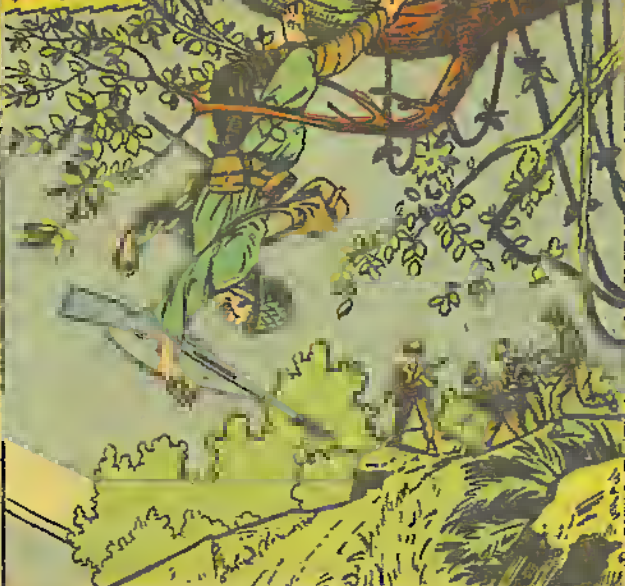
INSTANTLY--A JAP SNIPER HIDDEN IN THE TOP OF THE TREE, FIRES HIS GUN---



A SPLIT SECOND LATER--



THEN--



ANOTHER FAVORITE TRICK IS TO INFILTRATE BEHIND OUR LINES ---



THE FOLLOWING DAY-- AS THE JAPS PIN DOWN OUR ADVANCE UNIT WITH MACHINE GUN FIRE -- TREE TOP SNIPERS PICK OFF THE YANKS ONE BY ONE---



5 SHORTLY AFTERWARDS---



THAT'S ONE MONKEY WHO'LL NEVER DO ANY MORE SNIPING

SUDDENLY-- ONE OF THE MEN FIRES AT THE EIGHTH HANGING JAP---



WHAT'S THE IDEA OF WASTING AMMUNITION ON A DEAD JAP?



DEAD JAPS DON'T TWITCH THEIR TOES-- THAT JAP WAS PLAYING DEAD---

BORROWING MOST OF THE JAP TRICKS
--AND ADDING HUNDREDS OF THEIR
OWN-- THE U.S. ARMY BEGINS TRAIN-
ING G.I. SNIPERS BY THE HUNDREDS--



BEFORE TAKING THEIR POST-- THE MEN SMEAR MUD
ON THEIR FACES---



CAMOUFLAGED YANK SNIPERS GO
INTO ACTION IN THE PACIFIC---



THE SMART SNIPER RUBS EVERY
EXPOSED METAL SURFACE OF
HIS EQUIPMENT--TO PREVENT
IT FROM GLISTENING IN THE SUN-
LIGHT--AND REVEALING HIS
POSITION---

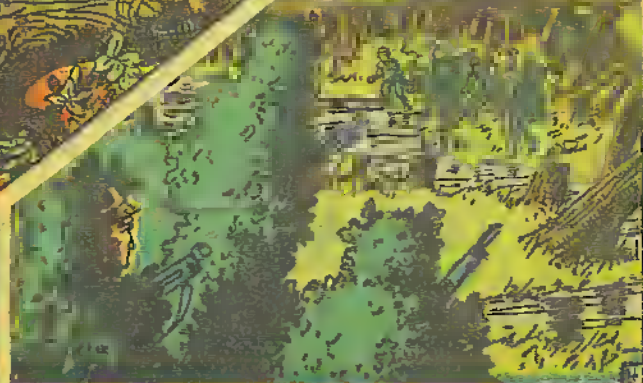


PERCHED IN HIS TREE TOP HIDEOUT--
THE AMERICAN SNIPER IS INVISIBLE
TO HIS ENEMY---

CROUCHED IN A LEAFY
LOCATION--THE SNIPER RE-
MAINS UNNOTICED FOR PREY-
HOURS--WAITING FOR HIS PREY--



OFTEN THE
"FOREST" COMES TO
LIFE AS YANK SNIPERS
FOUNCE ON UNSUSPECT-
ING NIPS---



OTHER MOBILE YANK SNIPERS ELUDE THE JAPS BY NEVER FIRING TWICE FROM THE SAME TREE--USING VINES TO SWING FROM TREE TO TREE---



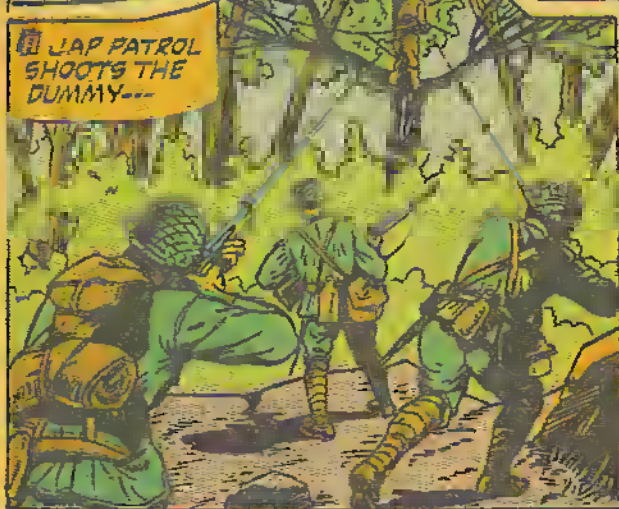
ANOTHER TRICK--BORROWED FROM THE JAPS--IS THE STRAW DUMMY---



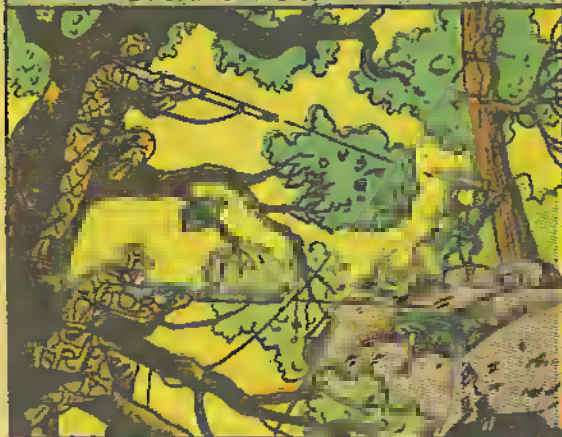
THE DUMMY IS MANIPULATED WITH CORDS BY A SNIPER FROM A NEARBY TREE---



A JAP PATROL SHOTS THE DUMMY---



THEN--THE JAP PATROL ADVANCES--ONLY TO BE SHOT DOWN BY THE REAL SNIPERS---



THE U.S. HAS TRAINED MANY DOGS TO SPOT JAP JUNGLE SNIPERS---



YOUR ROVER MAY HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF MANY NIPS WAITING IN JUNGLE HIDEOUTS TO SNARE OUR MEN---



IN NORTHERN LANDS--- SNIPERS ARE CAMOUFLAGED TO MATCH THE LANDSCAPE---



TARGETS OF SNOW SNIPERS ARE OFFICERS, OBSERVERS WITH PERISCOPES, GUN TURRETS AND VISION SLOTS IN TANKS---



THE SNIPER CARRIES HAND GRENADES AND BOTTLES FILLED WITH EXPLOSIVES-- WHEN HE WANTS TO DRAW ENEMY FIRE AND REVEAL A GUN EMPLACEMENT,



THE NAZIS FIRE AT THE DECAY---



THEN OUR ARTILLERY GOES INTO ACTION AND WIPES OUT THE ENEMY BATTERY---



G.I. SNIPERS IN THE JUNGLE---IN AND IN THE DESERT---ARE PER-WITTING AND DEFEATING THE

THE SNOW--- ON MOUNTAIN SIDES--- FORMING MAGNIFICENTLY---OUT-ENEMY AT EVERY TURN--!!



EYES OF THE ARMY



SERVING AS PILOT, PHOTOGRAPHER, RADIO OPERATOR, GUNNER AND SCOUT.. U.S. OBSERVATION AVIATORS ARE TRULY THE EYES OF THE ARMY, SPYING SO EFFECTIVELY ON ENEMY OPERATIONS THAT THEY HAVE BECOME INDISPENSABLE. WORKING CLOSELY WITH MANY BRANCHES OF THE ARMY.

HOLLINGSWORTH

OBSERVATION PLANES ARE THE LONE WOLVES OF THE ARMY AIR FORCES. RARELY PROTECTED BY FIGHTERS.. AND OFTEN FLYING THROUGH OUR OWN AND ENEMY BARRAGES TO COMPLETE A MISSION!

USING THE PROTECTION OF EVERY CLOUD THEY CAN FIND, THE PLANES FLY HIGH AND LOW.. RARELY IN THE MIDDLE ALTITUDES VULNERABLE TO ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE.



RECENTLY..WHILE ON A ROUTINE
PATROL AN OBSERVER SPOTTED
A COLORED SIGNAL LIGHT
FLASHING ON THE GROUND!

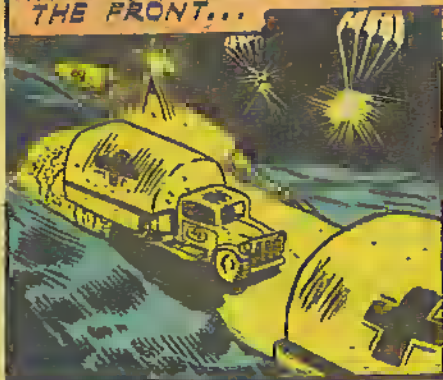


THE OBSERVER IMMEDIATELY
CONTACTS THE PILOT...

CIRCLE AT 800 FEET--
PULL THREE FLARES!



THIRTY SECONDS LATER..
THE GROUND IS ILLUMINATED
BY THE LIGHT OF 3 PARACHUTE
FLARES...AND THE OBSERVER
SPOTS A LONG LINE OF
TRUCKS MOVING TOWARDS
THE FRONT...



INSTANTLY..THE OBSER-
VER SNAPS ON A
SHIELDED LIGHT AND
RAPIDLY SKETCHES
ON PAPER THE SIZE
AND DIRECTION OF
THE TRUCK MOVEMENT.



THEN HE FEEDS THE PAPER
INTO A RADIO FACSIMILE
MACHINE.. AND PRESSED
A BUTTON TO EFFECT
TRANSMISSION!



INSTANTANEOUSLY IN COMMAND HEAD-
QUARTERS..MILES AWAY..ANOTHER
MACHINE DUPLICATES THE MAP!



LATER..OUR PLANES BOMB AND
MACHINE GUN THE TRUCKS--
DEPRIVING THE ENEMY OF VITAL
SUPPLIES!



ALTHOUGH THE ENEMY HAS BEEN FORCED TO MAKE MOST TROOP MOVEMENTS AT NIGHT.. THE OBSERVATION PILOT USUALLY KNOWS ABOUT IT..



THE OBSERVER IMMEDIATELY REPORTS TO THE RADIO CENTER!

TAKE PICTURES OF TROOP MOVEMENTS AT ONCE!



AS THE PLANE FLIES LOW, PHOTOS ARE MADE OF THE AREA!



THE PHOTOGRAPHER TOSSES OUT A CAN OF FILM ATTACHED TO A PARACHUTE!



A STREAMER TIED TO THE CAN BURNS COLORED LIGHTS, ENABLING THE GROUND CREW TO RECOVER IT!



FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER THE PICTURES ARE DEVELOPED.. AND READY FOR INSPECTION!



SHORTLY AFTERWARDS.. A CO-ORDINATED LAND AND AIR ATTACK WIPES OUT THE TROOP CONCENTRATION!



THE VERSATILE OBSERVATION SQUADRON OFTEN WORKS WITH THE INFANTRY.. THROWING MESSAGES OVERBOARD GIVING THE EXACT POSITION OF THE ENEMY!



THE TROOPS REPLY OR ASK FURTHER QUESTIONS BY PANEL SIGNALS LAID ON THE GROUND.. LONG STRIPS OF CLOTH ARRANGED IN CODE!



TO PICK UP LONGER MESSAGES, A PILOT FLIES LOW OVER A PAIR OF UPRIGHTS.. A HOOK, DANGLING FROM THE PLANE, SCOOPING UP THE ROPE TO WHICH THE MESSAGE IS ATTACHED



OBSERVATION PLANES ARE OFTEN SENT TO LOCATE ENEMY AIR-CRAFT CARRIERS KNOWN TO BE OFFSHORE!



THE CARRIER'S ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS ATTEMPT TO KNOCK DOWN THE PLANE AS IT RESOLUTELY RELAYS THE SHIP'S LOCATION TO THE RADIO CENTER...



THE CARRIER TRIES TO ESCAPE.. BUT AN HOUR LATER IT IS BLASTED TO DESTRUCTION BY MAMMOTH U. S. BOMBERS!



ROAMING THE SKIES.. ALWAYS READY FOR ANY EMERGENCY.. U. S. OBSERVATION PLANES ARE PLAYING AN INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE WAR -- PROUD TO BE THE EYES OF THE ARMY!



THE END

Tommy TOMMYHAWK

A FEATHER FOR A WARHAWK

LITTLE BLACK BEAR WAS LOOKING FOR ACTION BUT HE GOT MORE THAN HE BARGAINED FOR. WHEN AN OLD FLAMING GUN AND SCREAMING DEATH, HE RUNS AND SMACKS THE JAP JUGGERNAUT AND REALLY GOES ON THE WARPATH TO EARN A FEATHER FOR A WAR HAWK!

AT A SOUTH PACIFIC AIR BASE, TOMMY TOMMYHAWK, TWO OF HIS INDIAN BLOOD-BROTHERS OF THE CHEROKEE SQUADRON RELAX BETWEEN SORTIES!

IT'S BEEN TWO WHOLE DAYS SINCE OUR LAST OPERATIONAL FIGHT!

HOW ABOUT A CARD GAME?

SUITS ME! BUT WE NEED A FOURTH! WHERE'S LITTLE BLACK BEAR?

HERE HE COMES NOW!



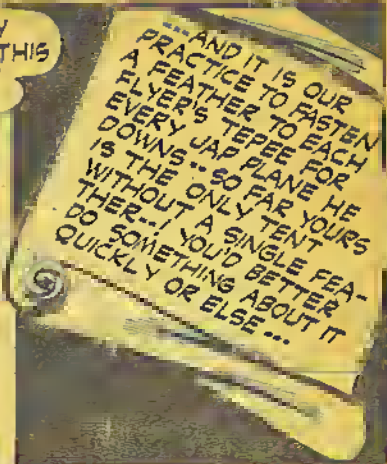


BOY! DOES HE LOOK MAD--!

WHAT'S THE MATTER--? SOMETHING WRONG?

WRONG! I'LL SAY THERE IS! READ THIS LETTER FROM MY GIRL LAUGHING WATER--

MUST BE BAD NEWS FROM HOME IN THAT LETTER HE'S READING--!



...AND IT IS OUR PRACTICE TO FASTEN A FEATHER TO EACH FLYER'S TEEPEE FOR EVERY TEEPEE FOR DOWNS JAP PLANE IS THE ONLY TENT WITHOUT A SINGLE FEATHER--! YOU'D BETTER DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT QUICKLY OR ELSE...

JUST THEN--

ALL PILOTS AND CREWS REPORT TO BRIEFING ROOM ON THE DOUBLE!



GEE! THAT'S TOO BAD! YOU'RE THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE SQUADRON WHO HASN'T KILLED AT LEAST ONE JAP--

DON'T WORRY! I'LL REMEDY THAT SITUATION ON MY NEXT FLIGHT--



COME ON, BOYS! A POW-WOW!



JAPS ARE LANDING HEAVY REINFORCEMENTS AT SOOLA! OUR BOMBERS WILL ATTACK IMMEDIATELY UNDER FIGHTER PROTECTION FROM THE CHEROKEE SQUADRON! HERE'S YOUR COURSE!

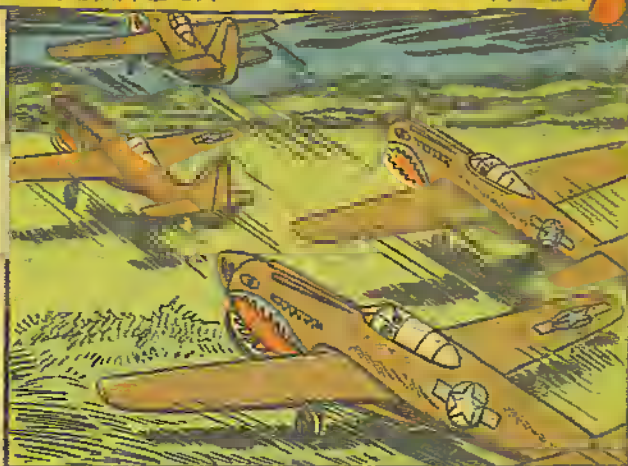


WE'LL FLY DIAMOND FORMATION! YOU, LITTLE BLACK BEAR--IN NUMBER FOUR SPOT, SLIGHTLY ABOVE! DON'T LEAVE ME WITH A BLIND SPOT--

REMEMBER, GANG--
KEEP TIGHT FORMATION
AND DON'T GO
OFF ON YOUR OWN!



A FEW SECONDS LATER, THE FEARSOME WAR
CRY OF THE INDIANS RENDS THE AIR AS
THEY TAKE OFF---

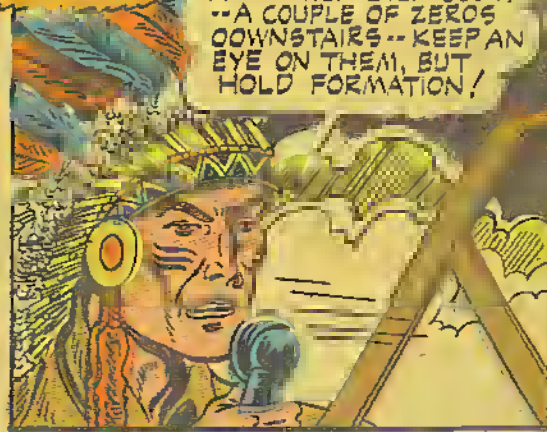


HEAD OF THE BOMBERS, THE CHEROKEE
SQUADRON SCANS THE SKIES FOR JAPS...



SUDDENLY!

ATTENTION EVERYBODY!
--A COUPLE OF ZEROS
DOWNSTAIRS-- KEEP AN
EYE ON THEM, BUT
HOLD FORMATION!



BUT LITTLE BLACK BEAR HAS OTHER
PLANS--

HOLD FORMATION--
MY EYE-- I'VE GOT TO GET MYSELF
A NIP AND THERE'S NO TIME
LIKE THE PRE-
SENT!--
HERE GOES!



BREAKING FORMATION, LITTLE BLACK BEAR
HURTLES DOWN ON THE NIPS...

CHEROKEEEEEEE





THIS WAS CRY
OF THE INDIAN
SQUADRON!
RUN FOR IT!



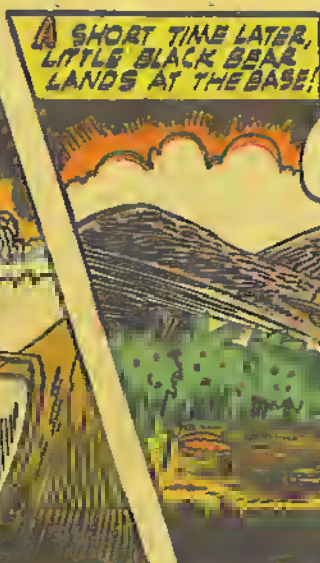
BUT LITTLE BLACK BEAR,
LIKE A MAN POSSESSED,
SMACKS THE JAP WITH
A BULL'S EYE BURST!



YEOW! THAT'S ONE
FEATHER FOR THIS WAR-
HAWK! NOW TO JOIN
THE GANG!



HMM! THEY'RE NOWHERE IN
SIGHT! THAT NIP MUST'VE TAKEN
ME INLAND FURTHER THAN I
THOUGHT! BETTER HEAD BACK
FOR THE BASE!



A SHORT TIME LATER,
LITTLE BLACK BEAR
LANDS AT THE BASE!

LOOKS LIKE THE GANG GOT
IN AHEAD OF ME! WAIT'LL I
TELL 'EM ABOUT THAT ZERO!



SAY, FELLERS! I DID
IT! I... SAY! WHAT'S
THE MATTER? WHY
THE LONG FACES?

JUST THIS! THE CHEROKEE SQUAD-
RON IS BEING RUN ACCORDING
TO STRICT RULES OF AIR COMBAT!



YOU LEFT TOMMY TOMMY-
HAWK WITHOUT BEAR
PROTECTION CONTRARY TO
ORDERS! HE WAS SHOT
DOWN!

SHOT DOWN!
I'M... I'M SORRY!
WAS... HE
KI... KILLED?

I DON'T KNOW! A PARACHUTE
OPENED JUST BEFORE HIS
PLANE CRASHED IN BUCHIN
VALLEY! IF HE WASN'T DEAD
WHEN HE LANDED HE SOON
WILL BE! HE'LL NEVER GET
OUT OF THAT JUNGLE
ALIVE! YOU'VE GOT TO
TO QUARTERS!



LATER IN QUARTERS,
LITTLE BLACK BEAR
PACES BACK AND FORTH!

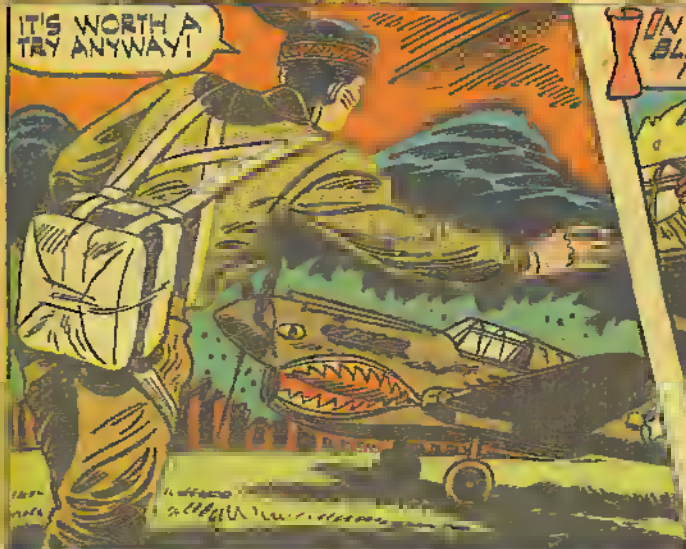
WHAT A MESS! JUST BE-
CAUSE I HAD TO GET A
ZERO TOMMY IS LOST
SOMEWHERE IN THE
JUNGLE!



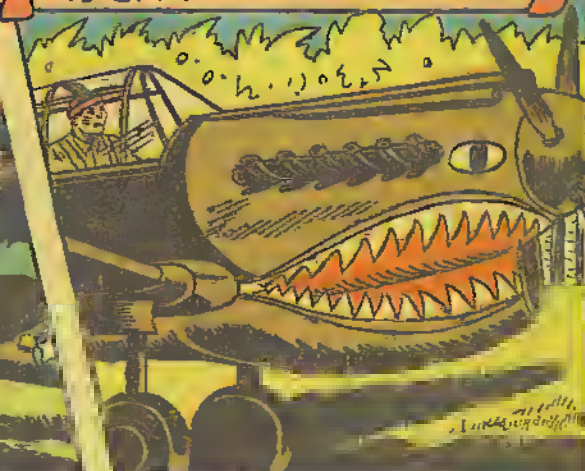
IF I CAN REACH MY PLANE,
PERHAPS I CAN TAKEOFF
AND FIND HIM!



IT'S WORTH A
TRY ANYWAY!



IN THE SPACE OF SECONDS, LITTLE
BLACK BEAR HOPS ABOARD AND
IS OFF!



AND SOMETIME
LATER!

THERE'S BUCHIN VALLEY!
AND THERE'S A CHUTE
HANGING ON A TREE!



I'M GOING
DOWN TO
LAND!



THE FIGHTER LANDS
HEAVILY, AND FINALLY
SETTLES DOWN!



BUT AS LITTLE BLACK
BEAR HOPS OUT!

BE PLEASED TO RAISE
HANDS, RED MAN!

JAPPOS!
AND A SECRET
AIRBASE!



PRECISELY! AND SINCE YOU
WERE UNFORTUNATE TO
DISCOVER IT, YOU MUST
DIE! PLACE HIM WITH THE
OTHER!



LITTLE BLACK
BEAR! SO THEY
GOT YOU TOO!

TOMMY! IS THIS
REDSKIN'S FACE
RED!



FORGET IT! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
I OVERHEARD THE NIPS TALKING! THEY HAVE
NINE DISABLED AMERICAN BOMBERS WHICH
THEY HAVE REPAIRED!



THEY PLAN TO FLY
THEM OVER OUR
BASE AND BLOW
IT TO PIECES!

WHBW! AND OUR MEN
WILL NEVER EXPECT
JAPS IN U.S. BOMBERS!
THEY'LL BE SLAUGHTERED!



JUST THEN!

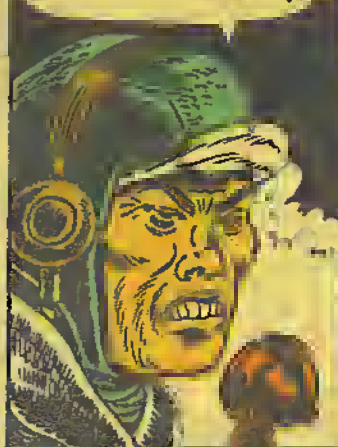
THE AMERICAN BOMBERS
ARE READY! PUT THE
REDMEN ABOARD! WE WILL
RETURN THEM TO THEIR
SQUADRON...TIED TO THE
BOMBS! HA! HA! HA!



TOMMY TOMMYHAWK AND LITTLE BLACK BEAR ARE PUT ABOARD THE JAP PILOTED AMERICAN BOMBERS!



PILOT CALLING SQUADRON! APPROACHING TARGET! YANKEE FOOLS DO NOT SUSPECT!



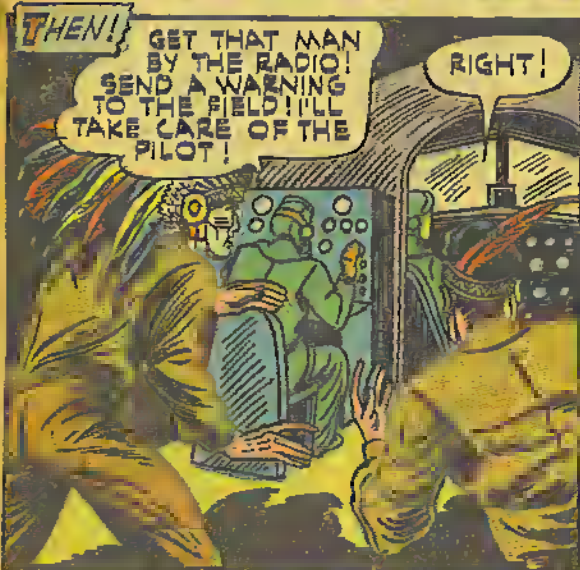
MEANWHILE INSIDE THE BOMBER, LITTLE BLACK BEAR HAS WORKED TOMMY'S BINDING LOOSE WITH HIS TEETH!



THEN!

GET THAT MAN BY THE RADIO! SEND A WARNING TO THE FIELD! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THE PILOT!

RIGHT!



UGH!

ONLY RED MAN SUPPOSED TO SAY "UGH"!



RED MAN, YOU DIE! OWW!



THEN!

THIS IS LITTLE BLACK BEAR AND TOMMY TOMMYHAWK! AMERICAN BOMBERS COMING IN ARE FLOWN BY JAPS! THEY ARE ATTACKING TOO! FIRE ON THEM! FIRE!



SECONDS LATER!

LOOK! THEY GOT OUR MESSAGE! HERE COME THE CHEROKEES!



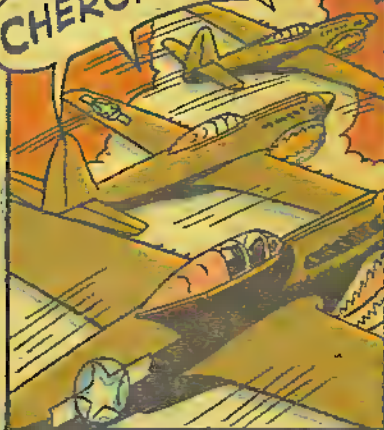
GRAB THE RADIOMAN'S CHUTE! WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!

JUMP! I'M RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

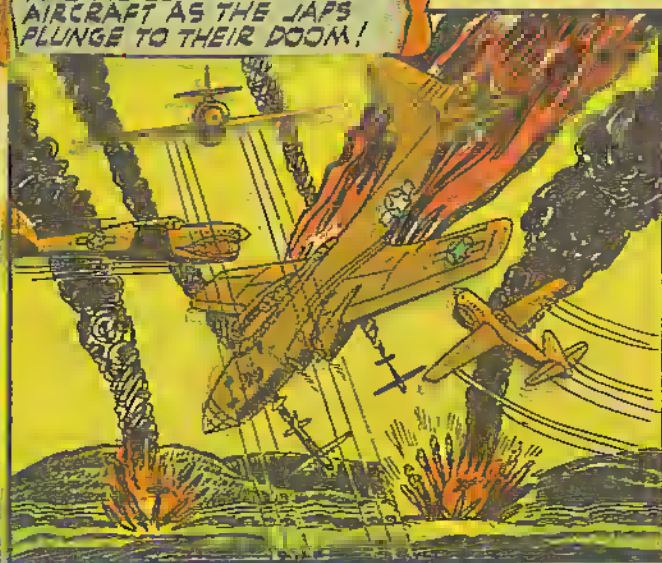


AS LITTLE BLACK BEAR AND TOMMY JUMP THE CHEROKEE SQUADRON ATTACKS!

CHEROKEE!



SECONDS LATER THE SKIES ARE FILLED WITH FLAMING AIRCRAFT AS THE JAPS PLUNGE TO THEIR DOOM!



SOMETIME LATER!

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, LITTLE BLACK BEAR WILL OVERLOOK YOUR DISOBEDIENCE! BUT YOU MUST EXECUTE ONE ORDER IMMEDIATELY!

YES SIR!



IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PLANES YOU WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN DESTROYING! NOTIFY LAUGHING WATER TO PUT TEN FEATHERS ON YOUR TEPEE!



TEN FEATHERS! WOW! I'M AN ACE!



WRITE AND LET US KNOW HOW YOU LIKE TOMMY TOMMYHAWK AND HIS SQUADRON!